

# NEWS

*For immediate release*



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## **EPA GIVES OK TO PM-10 PLAN**

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County announced today that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has given preliminary approval for the region's PM-10 Plan to control dust. That approval means that the 2 to 1 offset sanctions that took effect on March 2, 2000 will be lifted following publication in the Federal Register. A final determination for the plan will be made following a 60-day public comment period. Final action is anticipated in the fall.

"We're breathing a huge sigh of relief today," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Andy Kunasek. "Everyone involved in this process deserves a special thanks, in particular, Arizona Senator Jon Kyl for all of his diligence in Washington."

"Arizona continues to make significant improvements in air quality and today's approval is yet another indication of progress. This action eases restrictions on business and also assures our residents that their health is a top priority," said Governor Jane Dee Hull.

This latest action came after the EPA raised concerns contained in the initial Serious Area PM-10 Plan submitted in July of 1999. The EPA believed the plan relied too heavily on one control measure to meet requirements.

The plan that received today's interim approval by the EPA included the following new measures to control dust:

- Paving 60 miles of unpaved roads,
- Enhanced enforcement of Rule 310 for dust control at construction sites, vacant lots and unpaved roads,
- Use of additional PM-10 efficient street sweepers,
- Enhanced educational outreach for industry, cities, and towns,
- Hiring of an attorney and two additional program staff,
- Revised Environmental Services Department enforcement policy, and
- A new deputy county attorney for the enforcement of dust cases utilizing both civil and criminal authorities as appropriate.

"As one of the largest Counties in the nation, these measures will have a direct impact on controlling dust and will improve the quality of life for people living in Maricopa County," said Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox.

"The plan that EPA approved today will produce a 60 metric ton per day reduction for PM-10 by 2006. This package of measures to reduce dust is yet another step toward keeping our valley's air clean," said Supervisor Don Stapley.

"Perhaps most importantly, this decision sets in motion the process of restoring local control back to Maricopa County so we can address our dust problem," said Supervisor Jan Brewer.

"I am extremely pleased the EPA has given preliminary approval to our regional dust plan. We're obviously moving in the right direction," said Supervisor Fulton Brock.